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When's the right time for a hearing evaluation? Probably sooner than you think.

As the old story goes, there's good news and bad news about hearing loss. The good news is that the human brain – your brain – is amazingly good at adapting to many different kinds of obstacles, including things like hearing loss. You may be suffering from a slight decline right now and be hardly aware of it, because you've found ways to compensate – simple things like turning your head and leaning forward to hear better; or asking people to repeat what they've said; or waiting for the conversation to move on so you can catch up. Maybe you're adapting by simply avoiding social situations like noisy restaurants and parties, where the background noise makes it so hard to understand the conversation that you really have to strain to hear. Still, by coping and adapting, you feel like you're getting by.

KNOW WHAT YOU'RE MISSING.

So what's the bad news? You may be adapting so well that you don't know what you're missing. You're unaware of lost information, lost opportunities, and the lost energy you spend just trying to keep up. You just know that social situations are more tiring than they used to be. Those embarrassing moments when you don't catch someone's name or some other important bit of information are growing more frequent.

If you're like many people with age-related hearing loss, the condition progresses as you get older. And as it progresses, you work harder to cope, maybe without even realizing it. As good as your brain may be at adapting, the

effort it takes tends to diminish the parts of your life that matter most: **sharing with friends and family, keeping ahead in your business, and spending time out in the community.**

People with advanced hearing loss describe this state as a feeling of isolation, of being trapped. They find it physically and emotionally tiring to strain to hear a conversation in a noisy setting. It's just too hard to make the effort. So they give up.

BREAK THROUGH THE ISOLATION WITH NEW HEARING TECHNOLOGY.

There is help for people with hearing loss: a wonderful array of modern hearing solutions that can make it easier to breakthrough the wall of noise and focus on what's important. Modern hearing technology, like the Agil instrument from Oticon, can not only help bring you back to a fuller and more vibrant social life; it can make things like concerts, radio, telephone and TV much more rewarding experiences than ever before.

But what happens is that people tend to put off getting help later than they should. They adapt a little more, and miss out a little more, every year. They don't realize how much they're struggling, and living increasingly isolated lives.

DON'T LET OLD MYTHS ABOUT HEARING AIDS DELAY YOUR CHANCE AT A FULLER LIFE.

There are a variety of reasons that people put off getting help. The main one is a lack of understanding of what modern hearing

technology is and how it helps. We've found that there are at least three big myths that keep people from trying out hearing technology, putting them on the road to years of frustration and isolation instead of a happier life.

MYTH #1

Hearing instruments are just amplifiers... and I don't need more loudness.

Hearing aids used to attempt to help just by upping the volume of every sound. But that's not how it's done today. Devices like Oticon Agil now use the latest breakthroughs in microprocessor design, audio signal processing technology, and materials science, not to indiscriminately raise the volume of what you hear, but to sharpen the focus of what you hear. So you're better able to hone in on a conversation in a wall of party noise, and shift attention from one voice to another as you choose. It becomes easier to understand and respond to a soft, high-pitched voice – a child or an elderly person, for example – because your hearing instrument works to help your brain recognize natural speech cues and keep competing noise less distracting. The new hearing devices even use Bluetooth™ technology which lets you stream sound from a TV, phone, computer, or other Bluetooth device, for a high-end audio entertainment experience.

So this is not your grandmother's ear trumpet. Nor is it your father's case-and-cord hearing aid. Agil is a hearing instrument exquisitely programmable to match your hearing profile and works with your brain to help you hear more naturally, even in difficult hearing situations.



JEAN HAAPAMAKI
Sales Representative



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■ **SOUTH NIAGARA EASTER ROUNDUP:** As many as 1,000 children search for golden egg in Fonthill

Eggceptional

PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — It was the largest crowd ever for an Eggstravaganza at Marlene Stewart Streit Park on Saturday.

Katie Thorpe, Pelham's community services co-ordinator, said between 800 and 1,000 children came out Saturday to hunt for Easter eggs at the park.

Thorpe and Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn said the lineup for the eighth annual event stretched from the park, all the way up the hill to Pelham St.

The event began at 11 a.m. and the park was set up in three areas: one for children five and younger; children between six and nine; and children between 10 and 12. In each area there was one golden egg among all of the others.

"The golden egg had a prize of three movie passes for Seaway Mall Cinemas," Thorpe said.



Nadia Marando spends some time with the Easter Bunny at Pelham's eighth annual Eggstravaganza at Marlene Stewart Streit Park on Saturday. Between 800 and 1,000 children took part in the annual Easter egg hunt.

CARLEEN SCHMIDT PelhamNEWS Photo

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upfront

■ **EVA OLSSON:** Holocaust survivor against bullying

Inspiring through another's experience

EDDIE CHAU
PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND — It's important to nip bullying in the bud.

It's the message that Holocaust Survivor Eva Olsson would like to convey as she

speaks out against bullying next Monday during a presentation at 7:15 p.m. in front of E.L. Crossley and a Centennial students at Welland Secondary School.

Centennial will be one of nine District School Board of Niagara high schools Olsson will be visiting next week.

Born in Hungary in 1924, Olsson and her family were taken away in train boxcars to Auschwitz II-Birkenau extermination camp in 1944 during the Holocaust as part of Adolf Hitler's plot to eliminate about six-million Jewish people in Europe.

Using her survival story to inspire others, Olsson

spent more than a decade discussing her experiences with people during speaking engagements at schools, churches, service clubs, youth detention centres. She has also shared her story at Queen's Park and in front of the United Nations.

Olsson draws from her life experiences to showcase the power of hate while promoting the importance of standing up against racism, bigotry and intolerance.

Her story was told in the 2001 autobiography, *Unlocking the Doors: A Woman's Struggle Against Intolerance*.

For her efforts Olsson received an honorary doctorate from Nipissing University in 2005. In 2006 she was inducted into the Order of Ontario.

Residents are encouraged to attend the event. While free to attend residents are asked to bring a nonperishable food donation for area food banks.

For more information on the event call Janet Gripps at 905-892-2635. For more information on Olsson visit www.evaolsson.ca

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■ **FLOODPLAIN:** Bay says he has no problem with peer review of plan

Debate sloshes back and forth

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — Town councillors became spectators in their own council chambers Monday when the NPCA's controversial Welland River floodplain changes took centre stage.

A speaker for residents along the Welland River and Pelham regional Coun. Brian Baty, who sits on the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority board, exchanged views on a revision of the river's floodplain map.

Councillors listened but took little action.

Norman Johnson, representing the newly formed Welland River Floodplain Association, addressed council about NPCA plans to implement a new 100-year floodplain map for the river.

He said it would affect at least 268 properties in Pelham, Wainfleet and West Lincoln.

"The process was carried out without consulting property owners and without public input," said Johnson.

He said the new mapping was based a report by PhD candidate John Perdakis based on models devised from assumptions.

"At Beckett's Bridge, the new flood line is a full metre above the current 100-year flood line," he said.



WAYNE CAMPBELL Staff Photo

The Welland River Flood Plain Association is challenging a process of creating a new 100-year floodplain map for the Welland River. The association says the new line is a metre above the old line here at Beckett's Bridge.

"In the flat lines along the Welland River, if the water were to rise one metre, it would spread laterally for hundreds and even thousands of metres, vastly increasing the area of the floodplain."

"The floodplain line doesn't prevent flooding, it prevents the owner from fully using his property," he said.

"We now have few opportunities to create new building lots," said the former West Lincoln township councillor.

A new floodplain line would not only affect current residents but potential future residents.

The association's primary

goal is to stop the implementation of the new flood lines, to notify all affected landowners, to seek full and open public input and "force the NPCA to reveal its long-term goals."

Baty said the mapping is not being done in secret.

"The mapping report is on the (NPCA) website."

The Welland River has a large watershed, he said. The work is being done in sections.

"However, nothing will be implemented until we get all the information," he said.

Johnson suggested a review of the floodplain study by an

independent expert.

"I have no problem with the concept of peer review," said Baty.

The NPCA, he said, is open to public involvement and recently underwent a staff reorganization to emphasize the need for openness.

"All questions should be put on the table," Baty said about comments by the association.

He urged Johnson and his group to make a presentation to the NPCA board so it could examine specific points.

"We're listening and open to any questions," said Baty.

Ward 3 Coun. John Durley wanted to know what the association expected from town council.

"We're a third party once removed in this," he said.

Johnson said the association made presentations to Pelham town council Monday and Wainfleet township council last week to draw public attention to the floodplain mapping issue.

It will hold a public meeting on Thursday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. at Wellandport Community Centre, 5024 Canborough Rd., West Lincoln.

Pelham council received a resolution from the Township of Wainfleet opposing the NPCA's floodplain mapping.

It forced it to town staff for a report.

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■ **FUNDRAISER:** Silent auction runs through April, fashion show in May

Library auctioning off donated art

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — A library patron used downsizing to give the Pelham Public Library a lift.

Bev Robinson has donated more than a dozen paintings from her art collection to the library. She was moving to a smaller residence and wanted to help the library, library director Stephanie Stowe said.

"We receive many donations, such as books and clothing, for our sales from people when they downsize," she said, "but this is unusual."

The library has put the paintings, many by local artists, into a fundraising silent auction, which will continue through April ending at noon on Saturday, April 28. The paintings are on display in the Fonthill branch's Festival Room.

Stowe said the library is asking bidders to register at the main desk. They will receive a bidder's number. It's a security measure to protect identity and addresses.

Library staff have set opening-bid levels ranging from \$25 to \$200 or more to ensure reasonable returns for the paintings.

Among the paintings are the *Little Red Barn* by artist Barbara Goodwin, *Sentinel on Welland Avenue* by Frances Misiur and *Church at Peggy's Cove* by Lorraine Coakley-Black.

Other artists include Robinson herself, Brent Haighton, H. Burkle, Brian Mantrop, L. Stanton, Dorothy Reynolds, Lila Snyder, and Maria Kloukou.

The painting silent auction is one of two silent auctions.

The other donated items, such as framed prints and



knitted items including afghans, are tied to a spring fashion show.

The Friends of the Library, a group that helps raise money has set up the auctions. It's an alternative to library's Christmas gala, which for 15 years was held in November.

This year the Friends group has changed its approach. It will hold events, such as the silent auctions, throughout the year.

Proceeds go to library needs. They include new books, audio books and DVDs. Funds also support book clubs, children, young adult and seniors activities, programs with schools and outreach services such as books on wheels.

Friends of the Library are

sponsoring the Spring Fling Fashion Show at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 6, beginning at 2 p.m. It will include a fashion show by library staff and friends with clothing from Doriene's and Pennington's at Seaway Mall as well as the silent auction.

It is an expanded version of a similar fashion show held last fall. Community services co-ordinator Melanie Taylor-Ridgway said this one will include regular- and large-size clothing for both women who are working and those who have retired.

The fashion show will feature dress and casual wear in sizes of 8 to 18 and larger sizes 14 to 22.

The \$15 tickets are available at the library as well as at Doriene's and Pennington's.

The fall fashion show drew more than 40 people and Taylor-Ridgway expects this one in the library's Festival Room to be larger.

The Fonthill branch is now taking donations for its annual spring used clothing sale. It runs during regular library hours from Monday, Aug. 23, to Saturday, April 28.

"If you're cleaning out your closets for spring, remember us," Taylor-Ridgway said.

The clothing sale, along with two annual used book sales in March and August, are popular fundraisers. She said the recent March book sale brought in

LEFT: Director Stephanie Stowe of the Pelham Public Library adjusts *Church at Peggy's Cove* by artist Lorraine Coakley-Black. It is one of 15 paintings from a collection donated by a library patron. The library is holding a silent auction as a fundraiser through April for the paintings. Closing is at noon Saturday, April 28.

BELOW: Community services co-ordinator Melanie Taylor-Ridgway wears a shawl and holds a print that are part of a silent auction of donated items at the Pelham Public Library, which is being organized by the Friends of the Library. The auction will be held during the Spring Fling Fashion Show on Sunday, May 6.



\$3,400, the best for a spring sale. The August sale is a little stronger at more than \$4,000. Unsold clothing and books

from the sales go to local charities such as the Salvation Army, Goodwill and church mission programs.

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■perspective

It would be smart to back MPP's bill

Our legislatures are governed by partisan lines. But good ideas know no such boundaries.

At the highest levels of government, savvy greens and others are weaving effective programs and concepts from others, even political enemies. At the bottom end, even of the lowly government backbencher or opposition legislator, the private-member's bill remains a long shot but occasionally effective tool to translate a smart idea into law.

Ontarians have seen plenty of examples of smart moves to protect personal safety that spring not from ordinary lawmakers using the private-member's bill. Mandatory bicycle safety helmets for kids; stiffer penalties for drivers who blow past stopped school buses boarding or unloading; a crackdown on speeders in construction zones, all began with private-member's bills.

That said, there is any reason for Queen's Park not to pass Oxford MPP Ernie Hardeman's private-member's bill to make carbon monoxide detectors mandatory in homes? The odds against private member's bills are high: Just getting a crack at one for an MPP depends on a lottery-like draw. If the government isn't on side, it does a certain deal. Even if the government is on side, it may get squeezed out as a low priority.

Hardeman's bill — a reaction to the death of OPP officer Laurie Hawkins, her husband and two children, all killed by carbon monoxide poisoning in their Woodstock home in 2008 — would require carbon monoxide (CO) alarms in all homes with a fuel-burning appliance or attached garage.

Twice before, Hardeman's bill has received second, reading support in the legislature, only to die when a legislative cycle ended. Now before an all-party committee, after its third survival at second reading, the legislation is arguably too close to passing to be turned down again.

A 17-year Tory MPP, Hardeman knows better than most the long odds against private-member's bills. A longtime volunteer firefighter, he also knows the terrible cost of a can run away. Any law to curb that toll can only be smart.

—Greg Van Moorse

comment

Provincial policy is reshaping Niagara



Brian Baty
REGIONAL
COUNCIL VIEW

Most citizens have heard of the Greenbelt. There are many signs informing that you are entering the Greenbelt. This policy was put in place to protect significant areas of our province from development through what is known as "urban sprawl".

However, fewer people seem to know of the related policy called "Places to Grow". This follows up on the Greenbelt legislation by establishing new densities for development, by freezing urban boundaries and by directing new growth to specified areas of development.

Niagara Regional Council lobbied to obtain two special designations for growth in Niagara. For some time the Niagara Region has promoted a "Grow South" policy; to avoid further loss of our prime farmlands and to respect the boundaries of the Niagara Escarpment.

Pelham residents who have

attended meetings concerning the east Fenwick development and the east Fonthill development are shocked to learn what the new density requirements are for subdivisions in Ontario.

Currently the density of housing units in Fenwick and North Pelham is approximately three units per hectare. In Fonthill, with more urban land, that density rises to about four housing units per hectare. For the subdivisions that will be built in the future the density rises to about 12 units per hectare.

If you have visited new subdivisions in Burlington or Milton you will understand what impact that has on the visible

character of a community.

The government designated two areas for southern growth: The Gateway Economic Zone which follows the QEW from Niagara Falls to Port Erie and the Gateway Economic Centre which follows the 406, rail lines and the Welland Canal from Thorold to Port Colborne.

Regional Council established a new committee to develop policy for these proposed areas of growth, the Niagara Gateway Economic Zone and Centre Committee. At our last meeting a consultant reviewed a series of incentives to develop a Community Improvement Plan (CIP) for the area. This follows a preliminary report and discussions with key stakeholders.

Proposed are two types of incentives: a tax increment based grant program and a development charge grant program. A points based chart has been determined which will judge a proposal

based on the number of full-time jobs that would be created; by the construction value of the project and the degree to which the project uses LEED energy efficient designs in construction or the degree to which the project complies with Smart Growth principles.

The development charge program would only apply to exceptional projects which score highly on the rating chart. Once implemented, these incentives should give some hope for a future economic turnaround for Niagara.

Government policy will certainly change the physical densities of our new subdivisions. Hopefully that will lead to more affordable housing and the possibility of new industrial jobs in the Gateway Economic Zone and Centre.

Brian Baty is a Niagara Regional Councillor for the Town of Pelham
brian.baty@niagararegion.ca

■readers'views

Desperately seeking players

Since our move to the new Welland Community Wellness Complex, we have lost almost all of the card players who play cribbage, 500 and rummoli on Wednesday afternoon from 1 to 4.

I am reaching out to the seniors in Welland to come out and join us. For an example, when in the old building we usually had at least four to five tables of four players each playing crib, right now we have exactly three players.

The rummoli has gone from at least 10 or more players to four or five and the 500 has gone from at least 10 or more players to maybe four or five.

We were assured efforts would be made to help in getting new players but the new players have never appeared.

Please, won't you join us for an afternoon?

D.G. Smith
Fonthill

Pension change hits working stiffs

The working stiffs took to the chin again last week thanks to the federal budget, and will now have to work longer before qualifying for an old age pension.

Everybody except the politicians in Ontario. Oh sorry, I forgot. They are not working stiffs.

I'm at the point where I wonder why I bother to vote when we always end up with some clown whose performance compared to pre-election promises is purely coincidental.

I am truly disgusted.

Hank Bangild
Port Colborne

Seeking peaceful coexistence

With the winding down of the Afghan war let's hope a less strident attitude prevails and decisions to go to war once

more in the Middle East, Iran or anywhere else will be tempered with thoughtful considerations based on facts, not fantasy.

In the Middle Ages people were entertained by the spectacle of public hangings, burning of witches, heretics and those people who would not conform. Our sensibilities have hitherto become more in tune with the true nature of matters concerning the improbable and fanciful today that which burning is now less popular.

Moreover, while there are still elements of society that adhere to bizarre practices, most of us would allow that cruelty to sentient beings is never warranted and is patently immoral.

We have therefore placed immense distance between the cruel acts of terror perpetrated by societies of the Middle Ages and ourselves in the 21st century.

This was a gradual process, nevertheless, and provided sanity continues to prevail and the generals are not allowed free reign we may find ourselves living in

peaceful coexistence with other sentient beings for the foreseeable future.

Ronald J MacPherson
Port Colborne

Taxes killing small businesses

Small business is the heart of creating jobs. There is not one politician in the world who can create jobs.

The small business owner does that and does it well. However, there is one factor that is killing small business slowly. Taxes.

Small businesses are now struggling with their local municipal governments for lower taxes in order to stay competitive and stay open. Taxes are eating into their profit margin jeopardizing their very existence.

High taxes which are killing small business in Canada.

Charles Owen
Welland

■ **CALMING THE PUBLIC:** No power of entry bylaw passed: Rybiak

Pelham enforcement officers still barred from private property

WAYNE CAMPBELL
PelhamNEWS Staff

PELHAM — Ward 1 Counc. Richard Rybiak tried to calm stormy waters at last week's town council meeting.

He responded to a recent flurry of phone calls and e-mails to town councillors and staff, as well as to comments in newspapers, over a proposed power of entry bylaw presented at council's general committee meeting on March 5.

It drew residents to last week's council meeting worried that the bylaw that would open their properties

to town employees, giving bylaw enforcement officers the power "to enter on land at any reasonable time for the purpose of carrying out an inspection."

However, no such bylaw has been passed, said Rybiak, speaking during the adoption of minutes from the previous council meeting.

After a short debate on March 5, he said, councillors asked staff to revisit the proposal because of "its potential for misinterpretation" as unauthorized entry onto private property. Councillors returned the bylaw to staff

suggesting "they bring back other solutions."

Rybiak said based on the calls and e-mails he received he was being told to do "exactly what we did on March 5."

The bylaw was originally proposed to take advantage of changes to the Ontario Municipal Act in the Municipal Statute Law Amendment Act 2006. Bylaw enforcement manager Keegan Gennings in his March 5 report, accompanying the proposed bylaw, explained its need.

"As committee is aware,

enforcement officers may be required to enter private property in order to determine compliance with various municipal bylaws," he said.

They may be investigating rules for signs, fences, clean yards, noise or swimming

pools.

Unless a bylaw specifies power of entry "a property owner can refuse an unscheduled inspection," Gennings said. The bylaw enforcement officer would "be required to leave the site and provide notice of

an inspection date" before coming back to enter.

"The adoption of a power of entry bylaw would grant the authority to municipal officers to perform the inspection while already on site," Gennings said in his report.



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■ **STRONG KIDS:** Stationary bike riders generate funds for camp, swimming lessons

A positive spin on Y programming



VICTORIA GRAY
PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND — This story comes with its own positive spin.

The YMCA of Niagara's annual Strong Kids fundraising campaign stepped it up a notch last week when staff, YMCA members and volunteers participated in a spinathon at all five YMCA locations across the region.

"The wheels are spinning from Grimsby to Fort

Errie," Laurie Brady, director of Strong Kids for YMCA Niagara, said of the from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. stationary bike event.

"We want to bring awareness (about Strong Kids) to the community and let the children know they have support throughout the community."

The YMCA Strong Kids program gives children the opportunity to take part in YMCA programs and activities even though their families may not have the money to pay for camp, swimming lessons, youth action programs, child care and much more.

Last year more than 12,000 children participated in short- and long-term YMCA programs.

Next year the organization anticipates that number will rise to 13,500 children

enrolled in Strong Kids.

"These programs really help build strong leaders for the future," Brady said. "They also promote a healthy lifestyle right from the start. All kids need physical activity. We need to show them the community supports them."

This year the Y hopes to raise \$375,000 for Strong Kids. Last week the Welland YMCA had 30 riders participating in the spinathon, two at a time for one hour throughout the day. Brady expected the Welland site to raise at least \$3,000.

Y member Morgan Cooper pedaled with her 10-month old son Logan in her arms, with Brady by her side, after making a \$20 donation.

"I've worked with the YMCA a lot and I really believe in what they stand for, so any opportunity to support them — I'm in," she said.

CARLEEN SCHMIDT
PelhamNEWS Photo

Morgan Cooper pedals away with baby Logan at Wednesday's spinathon at the YMCA, alongside Lauri Brady. The spinathon is being held at five branches to raise money for Strong Kids.

The Healthy Cupboard

"It works! I'll take another two bottles please!"

This coming from a customer who had tried every other natural remedy under the sun in the past few years to take away her pain. Ian, the owner of The Healthy Cupboard couldn't believe his ears. He had finally found the perfect product to stop his customer's miseries. This is what every owner of a health food store dreams about, a natural product that receives so many outstanding testimonials on such a wide variety of health issues. I had recommended a new product called LeafSource, which we recently started carrying. We have had tremendous success with this product, and almost everyone we have recommended it to over the last few months has come back and thanked us over and over again! said Ian. Before trying LeafSource, the woman had complained about her ongoing joint pain and was at the vet's end. Although she had experienced some relief through the numerous natural remedies she had tried over the years, the pain would never fully go away. "She returned to my store, in tears, less than one week after buying LeafSource. I didn't know what to make of this woman standing in front of me crying, until she told me that within a few day

LeafSource STOPS PAIN WITHIN DAYS!

of taking LeafSource her pain started to disappear and within a week it was completely gone - as if it was never there." Ian goes on, "This coming from a woman whose painful joints and ongoing sciatica were so bad just one week earlier, that the pain was unbearable but now has completely subsided." By now you are probably wondering what is LeafSource and why is it so effective? LeafSource is a 100% natural product derived from a proprietary organic mineral composite with over ten years of university research. LeafSource helps regulate the inflammatory process and the body's ability to repair itself. The vast majority (70 - 80%) of the population over the age of 50 have joint problems — often called osteoarthritis. This is due to the natural (or unnatural) wear and tear on joint tissue that develops through the aging process. With joint inflammation, movement is limited and pain can be constant. LeafSource seems to have the ability to help people get their mobility and zest for life back. Millions of people seek treatment for their joint and inflammation problems by resorting to expensive, toxic prescription drugs (i.e. NSAIDs) with multiple side effects. These range from nausea and vomiting to serious intestinal

disorders (bleeding, gas, pain) and even kidney and liver failure. Isn't that too large a price to pay for a little pain relief? LeafSource is a safe alternative to these destructive anti-inflammatory drugs that cause more problems than they solve. There are absolutely no side effects and it doesn't interfere with any other medications. Controlled experiments and observations have revealed that LeafSource is a potent anti-inflammatory that has been shown to bring a reduction to inflammation and pain within a few days. People notice great results in terms of more energy and less pain by taking anywhere from 2 to 6 capsules/day. Typical maintenance is usually 1 capsule twice daily. This product gets results! LeafSource is scientifically validated through more than 10 years of research at 4 universities, including the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Mercer University. Aside from its incredible anti-inflammatory and pain reducing ability, it has also been shown to improve the performance of your daily nutrition and vitamin programs. It helps increase the absorption of vital nutrients, which in turn helps these nutrients work better. Better absorption = better results! It's almost as if they have become supercharged!

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LeafSource has also been shown to help enhance energy levels, improve intestinal health, strengthen hair, skin and nails and improve immune function. To see someone go from intense pain to a new lease on life within a week is truly incredible. Imagine being able to move free from pain. Who wouldn't want to get out of bed in the morning with more energy? It's amazing how much of this stuff we take for granted, until it's gone! Ian adds, "I often recommend that LeafSource be taken with other natural joint products in order to help them work better and provide even faster relief. One of the things I hear most often from people who have tried LeafSource is they just plain feel better, have more energy and less pain. We're so confident, we guarantee LeafSource 100%! That alone should be enough to try this incredible product."

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■ **EDUCATION:** 50th annual Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair biggest ever

Experiments produce success

WAYNE CAMPBELL
Pelham/NEWS Staff

WELLAND — Varsha Jayasankar's science project not only won the best-in-fair award, it may earn her a patent for its technique.

The Grade 10 student from Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School in St. Catharines received the top honour during the 50th annual Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair award ceremony Wednesday night at Welland Centennial Secondary School.

She filed for a patent for the way she used ginger on mould and fungus in a project called Plantibiotics: A "C.A.C.E." Study.

This was her fifth time in the regional science fair. She said she is looking forward to returning to the Canada-wide science fair in Charlottetown, P.E.I., as part of a nine-member Team Niagara.

Her advice to other students entering the Niagara fair is to keep trying, don't give up and have fun in what you are doing.

It's about following your passion, she said.

Jayasankar was also one of five students who bubbled to the top of the competition. They won gold medals in the fair's four categories.

Swati Anant of Wheatley School in St. Catharines took juvenile gold (Grade 6-7) with her project: Do health supplements affect bacteria?

Shane Hickman of Pelham Centre Public School won junior gold (Grade 7-8) with his Plug-N-Play multi-sensor platform for emergency assist robot.

Jayasankar was the intermediate (Grade 9-10) gold winner.

A team of Jerry Han and Angela Gaiero, also from Sir Winston Churchill, took the senior gold medal (Grade 11-12) gold medal with their autonomous gamma and beta radiation detection and mapping robot.

Jayasankar, Hickman, Han and Gaiero will join Liana Biktimirova of Ridley College, Neha Gulati of Lakeview Secondary School, Jennifer Ceele of Notre Dame College School and partners Amy Lin and Taylor Laekeman of Sir Winston Churchill to form Team Niagara for the national science fair.

Hickman, from Pelham Centre, was in his second Niagara fair. He said he enjoyed showing off the work with robots he has been doing at home for three years.

Notre Dame student Ceele, who was in her third Niagara fair, kept building on an earlier approach in a project of testing for lead in soil. She won a silver medal in the intermediate division with her project: A novel cold cathode source for determining lead concentration.

"If you follow your passion, you will do your best," she said about her approach.

In one of the largest shows in its history, held at Brock University March 23-25, the science and engineering fair had 175 projects entered by 210 students from 48 schools.

Organizing committee chair Dino Petrucci said this was an outstanding year with many imaginative projects. For the first time in a number of years, the Niagara fair will send its quota of entries to the national competition.

The science fair is sponsored by the Niagara and Niagara College, with Niagara's



Niagara Regional Chair Gary Burroughs, left, and Dino Petrucci, chair of the Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair, present the best-in-fair trophy to Varsha Jayasankar of Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School.

four school boards and independent schools.

Its goal is to stir interest in science among young people.

Petrucci said over that goal. A growing number of students are entering science fields at the local university and college as well as other institutions across Canada and the United States.

"We followed past winners and found them active in many science areas," he said. "Many

come back to help us with the fair."

Science fair organizers have created an outreach program that includes summer science camps at Brock, a mentor program spread over months leading up to the fair and science evenings for students but around topics such as space between the region.

Petrucci said the outreach program encourages a feeling of co-operation and team

spirit among science fair participants.

"They help each other much more than compete," he said.

Fonthill jeweller Alvin Howey was honoured with a special laser-cut plaque for his 50 years of work engraving science fair trophies.

Schools that entered the most students received prizes. They were: École élémentaire catholique Saint-Antoine in the juvenile category; Ridley

College and Lakeview Public in junior; and Sir Winston Churchill in the secondary school level.

During the awards night, 40 presentations were made by various sponsors, businesses, associations and government bodies.

Fair winners included 55 gold, silver and bronze finalists as well as those who received honourable mentions in the four divisions.

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■ **NIAGARA FOOD FESTIVAL:** Niagara College new title sponsor of event moving ahead to early September

An appetite for change

VICTORIA GRAY
PelhamNEWS Staff

WELLAND — New partners in this year's Niagara Food Festival promise to kick it up a notch.

Niagara College has become title sponsor of Welland's signature event.

Festival chair Brad Morgan is excited about the partnership.

"Niagara College is a very important part of our community and home to the Canadian Food and Wine Institute, which is famous for its unique approach to food, beer and wine education. We think it's a perfect pairing with the peninsula's tastiest party," he said.

Morgan also announced that the date of the festival will move from its usual early fall weekend to Sept. 7, 8 and 9.

"Moving the dates up makes perfect sense for guests and vendors. Weather

It's a great way to get to know their community and a chance for us to welcome them."

Gord Hunchak,
acting vice-president of
student and external relations

has always been a challenge for us and this way we will have a better chance for warm, dry weather," he said.

The festival board conducted a survey with vendors and guests that revealed the majority of them welcomed and encouraged moving the festival ahead a few weeks.

Gord Hunchak, the college's acting vice-president of student and external relations, said Friday, Sept. 9, will be Niagara College Night. The festival's date change coincides with the end of student orientation week at the

college.

Hunchak said students have expressed a desire to become a larger part of the community, so hosting the first night of the festival downtown not only helps accomplish that goal, it gives the festival a larger budget for a headlining musician.

"It's a win-win-win — for the city, the festival and the college," Hunchak said. "It's a great way for new students to get to know their community and a chance for us to welcome them."

Students from the Welland and Niagara-on-the-Lake campuses will be bused to the festival.

It's an event Morgan says is improving.

"We will be heightening the food component, entertainment will be stronger as well as marketing to draw more people in because that just makes everything better. Even guests enjoy a busy festival,"



VICTORIA GRAY Staff Photo

Niagara Food Festival chair Brad Morgan, left, Mayor Barry Sharpe, Niagara College acting vice-president of student and external relations Gord Hunchak and first-year culinary apprentice student Ben Carlson celebrate after announcing the college will be title sponsor of the festival — which is moving to early September.

Morgan said.

"We're looking forward to a great year."

Mayor Barry Sharpe congratulated the two partners

and said he intends to start convincing city council that the partnership will result in greater benefits for Welland, including students con-

tributing more to the local economy.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Proposed Regional Policy Plan Amendment 1-2012 Niagara's Economic Gateway Zone and Centre

Proposed Change

The Region's Growth Management Strategy, Niagara 2031 includes policies which implement the Provincial Growth Plan's Economic Gateway Zone and Centre designations. RPPA 1-2012, Niagara's Economic Gateway Zone and Centre Amendment provides strategic direction for the development of employment lands within the Gateway and outlines a land use strategy to support economic development and job creation in these areas.

Niagara Region has prepared a draft Amendment including policies and mapping for RPPA 1-2012 to include into the Regional Policy Plan which can be viewed at (www.niagararegion.ca).

Have Your Say

Public input on this proposed amendment is welcomed and encouraged. You can provide input by speaking at the public meeting or by making a written submission to the Region. Please note that unless you do one of the above, you may not be able to appeal the decision later.

Written Submission

To provide input in writing or to request personal notice if the proposed change is adopted, please send a letter c/o Regional Clerk, Niagara Region, 2201 St. David's Road, P.O. Box 1042, Thorold, Ontario L2V 4T7, or email kevin.bain@niagararegion.ca.

Public Meeting

This public meeting is being held under the provisions of Section 17 of the **Planning Act** at the following time and place:

Date: Wed., April 25, 2012

Time: 1 p.m.

**Location: Niagara Region Headquarters -
Campbell West Building
Council Chambers
2201 St. David's Road, Thorold, ON**

More Information

For more information about the proposed Amendment please contact Brian Dick, Senior Planner, MCIP, RPP by phone at (905) 685-1571, ext. 3365, or by email at brian.dick@niagararegion.ca.

A copy of the proposed Amendment and information and materials related to the Amendment are available for inspection in the Integrated Community Planning Department at the above address Monday to Friday between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm.

Special accessibility accommodations and materials in alternate formats can be arranged by contacting the Niagara Region's Accessibility Advisory Coordinator at 905-685-4225 ext. 3252 or accessibility@niagararegion.ca.

LEGAL NOTICE

Section 17 of The Planning Act

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Municipality of Niagara before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body is not entitled to appeal the decision of the Council of the Regional Municipality of Niagara to the Ontario Municipal Board.

If a person or public body does not make oral submissions at a public meeting or make written submissions to the Regional Municipality of Niagara before the proposed official plan amendment is adopted, the person or public body may not be added as a party to the hearing of an appeal before the Ontario Municipal Board unless, in the opinion of the Board, there are reasonable grounds to add the person or public body as a party.

If you wish to be notified of the adoption of the proposed Policy Plan Amendment, you must make a written request to the Regional Clerk and such request must include the name and address to which such notice should be sent.

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Welland Humane Society. Besides the barbecue Studio Twenty staff will also be selling Paper Paws to raise funds. Joining in on the fundraiser will be a number of vendors. Studio Twenty is located in the Thornhill Shopping Centre, on Hwy. 20. For more information call 905-892-2920.

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■ **BEREAVEMENT:** Education session later this month

New approaches to grief to be explored

MARYANNE FIRTH
PelhamNEWS Staff

THOROLD — It's been 25 years since Bereavement Resource Council of Niagara began providing much-needed support for people experiencing loss.

And the need is just as great now as it was when the council began more than two decades ago.

To assist people working in the grief counselling field, BRCN will host its annual Bereavement Education Day April 27 at Four Points by Sheraton on Schomberg Hwy. in Thorold.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. followed by workshops from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$85 a person, which includes a buffet luncheon and all-day refreshments and snacks. About 65 people are expected to attend.

The day is an opportunity for people working in the field to come together, learn new approaches and network with one another.

council past-president Nancy Riou said.

Morning workshops New Perspectives on Grief Support and I Choose the Red Shoes will be led by Dr. Bill Webster, founder and executive director of The Centre for the Grief Journey.

In addition to facilitating grief support programs in numerous communities, Webster offers individual and family grief counselling. He also conducts professional seminars and educational programs regarding grief in both North American and Britain. Webster is a member of the Association for Death Education and Grief Counselling, which recently awarded him the prestigious Fellow in Thanatology from the University of Illinois in recognition of his work and his contribution to the field of grief counselling.

In the afternoon, founders of The Hummingbird Centre for Hope, Beth Bailey and Marry Williams-Balodis, will present Finding Hope in Widowhood, which addresses the journey of their personal loss.

Topics will include the unique aspects of young widowhood, parenting the grieving child, redefining the self, the choices to be made and how to keep the door open to hope.

Bailey and Williams-Balodis will also touch on their experiences at Camp Widow through the Soaring Spirits Loss Foundation.

It's crucial that bereavement support resources remain available in the community, said Riou, who facilitates



Supplied photo

Beth Bailey, left, and Marry Williams-Balodis are the founders of The Hummingbird Centre for Hope. They are featured presenters at the annual Bereavement Education Day to be held at Four Points Suites in Thorold on Friday, April 27.

a support group at St. Kevin's church in Welland on the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. It's an opportunity for people to share their stories and speak about how loss has impacted their lives, Riou said, calling it an important part of the healing process.

For more information on the support group or on BRCN's Education Day, contact Riou at 905-732-3969.

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AROUND TOWN

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

PROGRESSIVE EUCHRE
with the Fonthill Lioness 7:30 p.m. at Fonthill Lions Hall with prizes, light lunch and cash bar. \$5 per person.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

OPEN HOUSE

noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers club house showcasing the Fenwick Central Railroad at 1141 Maple St. in downtown Fenwick. For information see www.gnmre.ca, e-mail info@gnmre.ca

SOUP'S ON

A soup and bread lunch by the Fenwick Lioness Club 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Fenwick Lions Club, in Centennial Park at 999 Church St. A selection of homemade soups, variety of breads, dessert, coffee, tea, juice at \$7 per person.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18

ACW SPRING TEA
at Holy Trinity Church Fonthill, 1557 Pelham St. Fonthill, from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Come and enjoy a cup of tea and dessert, our treasure table, gently used books and bake table.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

FONTHILL KINSMEN HOME AND LEISURE SHOW
for the 17th year at the Pelham Arena on Haist St. Hours are Friday 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pelham Arena.

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Time 5 p.m. (one sitting only). Adults \$10. Children to age 12 \$5. UCVW bake sale in the narthex, Fonthill United Church, Phone 892-6433 Monday or Wednesday to Friday mornings to reserve tickets.

SUNDAY, APRIL 22

OPEN HOUSE

noon to 4:30 p.m. at the Greater Niagara Model Railroad Engineers club house showcasing the Fenwick Central Railroad at 1141 Maple St. in downtown Fenwick. For information see www.gnmre.ca, e-mail info@gnmre.ca

MONDAY APRIL 30

PELHAM HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

7:30 - 9:30 p.m. meeting at Fonthill Branch, Pelham Library. April speaker is Valerie Saari, Iris hybridizer, member of the American Iris Society and a fully accredited garden/exhibition judge. Come and hear this award-winning iris grower tell us why she became "Addicted to Iris Gardens". All welcome, membership only \$7.

ONGOING

ST. ALEXANDER PASTA NIGHT

First Thursday of every month at St. Alexander Church, Town Square, Fonthill. Admission: \$9 for adults, \$4 for children age four to 12 and children under three free. All you can eat red and white sauce penne, meatballs, sausage, garlic bread, salads and more. Catered by Antipasto's.

FENWICK LIONS FISH FRY

every second Friday at Fenwick's Centennial park from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Large two-piece dish of haddock and fries \$10, one piece \$8. For cole slaw add \$1. This 15-Friday season runs from April to October fish fry dates are: April 6, April 20, May 4, May 18, June 1, June 15, June 29, July 13, July 27, Aug. 10, Aug. 24, Sept. 7, Sept. 21.



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One-on-one Computer Help with computer systems specialist Dan Wallace. He is available to help with your questions every other Friday between 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Pelham Public Library. Fee: \$10 per half hour with a half hour minimum. Includes use of a laptop. Payment reserves your place, since space is limited. Please register in person at the Pelham Public Library Fonthill branch.

WOMEN'S OPEN MIC

Entertainment Night at the Cafe On Main, 1455 Pelham St., Fonthill, on the last Friday of every month from September to June. This event is an opportunity for women of all ages and talents perform as a musician, poet or comedian, in an encouraging environment. Sign up for performers is at 7 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m. Featured artist set at 10 p.m. For more information go to www.WomensMusicNetwork.ca.

TUESDAY NIGHT BINGO

St. Ann's Parish, 834 Canboro Rd., Fenwick, 7 p.m. Continues every Tuesday to the end of June. Wheelchair accessible. Chance to win \$100. 905-892-6123.



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MYTH #2

Hearing instruments are uncomfortable and unattractive.

Ironically, this myth persists because modern hearing instruments, like Agil, are so well concealed that most people never see them. The styles most people see in public are actually older generation units worn either directly in the ear or in a large behind-the-ear case. Instruments nowadays are an astonishing blend of camouflage and miniaturization that disappear behind the ear, tinted to blend with your hair or skin color. They are ultra-light, and you barely feel the receiver as it hovers over your ear canal and delivers sparkling, vibrant sound.

MYTH #3

Hearing instruments are not for me. Not yet, anyway.

People who believe they are only slightly impaired hearing often make the mistake of thinking that they don't have much to gain from a hearing instrument. It's a shame, because they waste years of their lives coping and adapting, and missing out on the joy of being more fully engaged with family, friends and colleagues.

There's only one way to dispel this myth: come see us at Brosnan Ear Clinic, get a hearing evaluation, and try Agil risk free. The only way to understand what you're missing is to try these state-of-the-art hearing instruments in your own home, your own office and your own daily life. If you're suffering from hearing loss, you'll see how Agil can help pull you back into the more vibrant life you love, in a way that adapting, coping, and older hearing technology cannot.

Hearing technology has come a long way.

In the beginning, there was the ear trumpet. Its advantages were that it did the job (more or less) and didn't require batteries. That was a good thing, because a battery in those days weighed about 30 pounds. Disadvantages? Just look at it!



With the development of battery powered amplification about a hundred years ago, thanks in part to development in the telephone industry, hearing aids became more effective. At their most basic they were simple amplifiers

that added volume to unfiltered sound, much the same as an ear trumpet, but in a smaller and (slightly) more practical package.

The development of more compact batteries and electronics in the mid-20th century helped make the hearing aid wearable, though not so fashionable. Even so, the portable, transistor-powered hearing aid made a real difference in the lives of millions of people with hearing loss in an increasingly mobile society.

The Space Age spawned a huge wave of innovation in the miniaturization of electronics, audio circuits and batteries. In the late 70s the industry began to see instruments that could actually be custom molded and fitted to be worn in the ear. A revolution in comfort and convenience was in full swing, but the best was yet to come.

The last 20 years have seen quantum leaps in hearing technology performance due to the rapid miniaturization of microprocessors and sophisticated audio signal processing circuits.

Today, with nearly all the adjustment and sound processing controlled by a tiny on-board computer, Oticon has eliminated the need for most manual controls and has shrunken the modern hearing instrument to an astonishingly small size.

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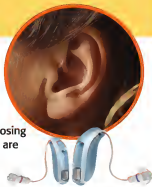
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Karyne Steele, manufacturer representative from Oticon, will be on hand to demonstrate the latest technology and answer any questions you may have.



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